(d) the preventive precautionary measures taken to avoid such problems in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the Convener CAT 2009, a few thousand students faced inconvenience due to technical glitches occurred in online CAT examination. However, most of the students have already been rescheduled and all of them are being given the opportunity to take the test.

(c) Prometric and National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) were entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the test.

(d) IIMs have put in place a process to identify the causes for disruptions noticed and reported during the entire testing period and these are being addressed to ensure smooth testing for the currently held CAT and for the future tests.

Schools for rural areas under Public-Private-Partnership scheme

3321. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a tact that 25,000 schools would be set up in rural areas under the Public-Private-Partnership scheme;

(b) if so, as schools in rural areas are often not financially viable, will funding be done as a social objective of Government and social responsibility of the private sector; and

(c) whether guidelines would be so framed that remote and hilly areas get preference as penetration of education there is non-existent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) This Ministry has decided to set up 6000 model schools at the rate of one school per block as benchmarks of excellence. 2500 schools out of these are envisaged to be set up in public-private partnership mode in blocks which are not educationally backward.

Setting up of national universities

3322. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether complete autonomy, exemption from audit by CAG and creation of special research endowment fund could be key features of 14 national universities of world-class standard proposed to be set up by Government;

(b) whether aiming to develop these universities as global centres of innovation, his Ministry has prepared a concept note on institutions proposed to be set up under Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether Government would ensure that governance structure of universities shall be tuned towards ensuring autonomy over all matters; and

(d) if so, other main proposals being considered and by when they are likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A concept note on the proposed Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards had been circulated and comments have been received. The concept note is being finalized.

Development funding for universities

3323. PROF.ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has decided to address the crucial issues of development funding for universities by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether State Governments have agreed for development funding to universities;

(c) whether the universities which are facing resource crunch and other hurdles in providing access to the higher education would be guided by innovative ways to streamline the system; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government/UGC will provide help to universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), UGC provides development grants to various eligible institutions declared fit to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act. The Eleventh Plan envisages schemes to incentivize State Governments to increase public investments in higher education by providing Central Government assistance to supplement State Government's investment. These include incentivizing State Governments for establishment of new universities, support to universities and colleges that have not been declared fit to receive grant, additional support to universities and colleges declared fit to receive grants and establishment of degree colleges in 374 identified educationally backward districts.

Shortage of faculty in universities

3324. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up any task force to come with a solution to deal with acute shortage of quality faculty in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and